Resultados de una Encuesta en Port Barton, Palawan

Sample size: 23; Average age: 34 years; 19-73 years of age; 56% female

Duration of stay: Average stay in the Philippines was 3.5 weeks; average stay on Palawan Island 12 days; average stay in Port Barton 4 days

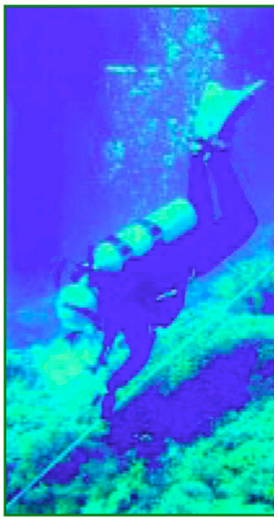
Access: 70% came by boat with an average cost of PhP600 per person (one-way); others came by land from Puerto Princesa City

Activities in the order of frequency: relaxation, snorkeling, island hopping, sightseeing, scuba diving, hiking and swimming

Accommodation and price: 50% said price was a primary factor in their choice of resort; average lodging was PhP260 (US$6.50) per person per night; spent average of PhP670 (US$17) per person per day

Type of visitor: 70% scuba divers and snorkelers

Willingness to pay for conservation: All willing to contribute an average of PhP120 (US$3) per person as user fee to a marine sanctuary; 78% would contribute an average of PhP150 (US$3.75) to an environmental fund; 60% said there was a need for an information center in Port Barton



Perceived problems: 50% felt there were environmental problems in Port Barton; complaints in order of importance: litter on the beach, deforestation, coral damage, forest fires and noise

Perceived attractions: most enjoyable reasons for coming: snorkeling, the local people, sightseeing, island hopping, the beach, relaxed atmosphere and swimming

How to improve Port Barton: Most common answers were related to maintaining the cleanliness of the area, followed by "Don't change anything, Port Barton is beautiful." Other suggestions related to improving transportation, the roads and accommodations

Most needed to protect the area: Mooring buoys at frequented reefs and for boatmen to avoid anchor damage on the reefs; education regarding coral ecosystems and putting up informational signs about corals at strategic locations; preserving the natural surroundings of the area; keeping the area small and simple to preserve its character thus preferring few vehicles and no large-scale developments or hotels

Source: Arquiza (1999)